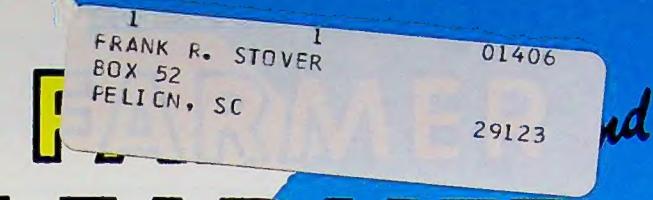


South Carolina

YOUNG FARMER FUTURE FARMER



Magazine

VOL. 37, NO. 4

25 CENTS

SPRING 1988



Young Farmer of the Year



Official Publication
Of The Young Farmers
And Future Farmers
Of South Carolina



YOUNG FARMER & FUTURE FARMER

Magazine

The South Carolina Young Farmer and Future Farmer Magazine (ISSN: 0038-3201) is published quarterly by the South Carolina Young Farmer and South Carolina Future Farmer associations, 922 Rutledge Building, Columbia, S.C. 29201. Subscription price is 25 cents per year for members and 50 cents per year for non-members.

Second class postage paid at Columbia, S.C.

SPRING 1988 VOL. 37, No.4

(ISSN: 0038-3201)

POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO

Publication and Editorial Offices
922 Rutledge Building
Columbia, SC 29201

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Editor.....Wilbur McCartha



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TO FUTURE FARMERS

By J. Earl Frick, Jr.

Participation in the FFA contest and awards program is an important privilege and benefit of your membership in the FFA organization. You can receive recognition for your hard work and accomplishments in the FFA by completing the applications which apply to your Supervised Occupational Experience Program (SOEP). The due date for most applications is April 15, so now is the time to submit Agricultural Proficiency Awards, the State Farmer Degree, the Individual Future Farmer Award, or any other applications for which you qualify. Your advisor can help you decide which applications apply to you, and help you to complete and submit the necessary forms.

Chapter officers and advisors are encouraged to complete the applications for Building Our American Communities (BOAC), the Chapter Award Program and Chapter Safety. The state-winning chapters in these categories can win a trip to the National FFA Convention for the advisor

and a designated chapter member. Make your plans now to complete your contest and award applications prior to the April 15 deadline.

The State FFA Convention will be held at Clemson University, June 8-10. Mickey McCall, National FFA vice president from Balsam Grove, North Carolina, will participate in the convention this year along with a number of state sponsors and key supporters of the FFA program. Your state officers already have made plans for another exciting state convention. Plan to be there.

The Cherry Grove FFA Camp will open June 13 for the 1988 camping season. The leadership conference for chapter officers is scheduled for June 21-24, and the last week in June and first week in July will operate as regular camping weeks. The camp fee is \$30 for regular camp and \$24 for leadership. Make your plans now to attend and participate in your camping program.

TO YOUNG FARMERS

BY Russell S. Willis

The 40th Annual State Young Farmer Convention held January 15-16, 1988 at the Radisson in Columbia, S.C. was an outstanding event. I observed those persons that truly support agriculture in this state. Dr. Charlie Williams and the Vocational Education staff were in attendance as well as representatives from Clemson University, along with agricultural teachers from all over the state. More than a few words of thanks should go to the Clemson staff for their hard work and support of the Young Farmer organization. Sponsors and exhibitors also played a very important part in our convention. I was also impressed by the way the officers ran the show. Their professionalism was very evident.

As we start the new year, the officers you elected have set a goal of increased membership and participation in our programs. We need to actively recruit those young people in order to increase and perpetuate our chapter membership. An excellent example of this is the Hillcrest/Dalzell

chapter. In their first year as a chapter they have 24 members. In order to retain and increase our membership, we need to search for innovative ways to increase participation. The chapter presidents should soon be receiving a survey for input. We need and value your input into this. We are hoping that the changes you suggest will stimulate vigorous growth of our chapters in the next few years.

Chapters should soon submit their membership rosters. Teachers that do not have Young Farmer chapters should be encouraged to start one. A Young Farmer chapter at your school can be a very valuable asset to your entire program as well as the community, not to mention the requirements of a twelve-month program.

This is a busy time of year for our organization. Most of the events for the year will be planned in the first quarter of 1988. Among these are the summer tour. As soon as we know the date and location, we will communicate this to you.

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Cover Photo

The Whisenhunt brothers, Clyde, Donnie, and Johnny, portray a contented sense of pride and teamwork as they evaluate another excellent herd of hogs soon to go to market.

Agriculture Education Welcomes Steve Willis



Russell S. "Steve" Willis has been appointed district consultant for agricultural education, and will serve as executive secretary of the South Carolina Association of Young Farmers. He succeeds Tommy Gladden of Columbia, who has assumed new duties as vocational evaluation coordinator with the Office of Vocational Education.

Mr. Willis will work with agriculture teachers in District I and II, and will have some responsibilities for curriculum development and in-service training.

Before coming to Columbia, Mr. Willis was an agriculture teacher at Fort Mill

High School for four and one-half years. While at Fort Mill, he was deeply involved in the planning and design phase of construction of a new facility for agriculture. The facilities there included a large greenhouse and a very adequate agricultural mechanics laboratory. The equipment and curriculum also was upgraded to reflect the advancing technology of agriculture. Mr. Willis was one of the first teachers in the state to link with Agri-Data Resources, an agricultural data base in Wisconsin.

His teaching experience is supplemented by one year at Fort Pierce Central High School in Florida. While there, he had the opportunity to experience the growth and new developments in the "Green Industry." He also noted that in Florida, as is the case everywhere, being successful in farming requires close management of all resources available.

A native of Brevard, N.C. Mr. Willis received his B.S. and Master's degrees in Agricultural Education from Clemson University, and did his student teaching at Tamassee-Salem. His military service included four years with the U.S. Army.

Teaching More Than a Career



Edgar B. (Eddie) Johnson, Jr.,

"Teaching is more than a career...it's a way of life" to Edgar B. "Eddie" Johnson, Jr., agricultural mechanics teacher at the B.J. Skelton Career Center in Pickens County.

Mr. Johnson has been named Teacher of the Year of 1987-88 for Pickens County School District, the first vocational teacher to be selected for that honor in the county, according to Curtis Sidden, superintendent.

"Johnson is an outstanding teacher who is recognized by educators, students and parents for his ability, professionalism, dedication and concern for young people," Mr. Sidden continued.

Mr. Johnson said "a good teacher takes a student and expands his knowledge, however, the effective teacher does more than that. He also helps children grow and achieve their full potential."

"A teacher in addition to imparting academic knowledge to students, has the opportunity and the responsibility to serve as a positive role model. In so doing, the teacher can help students improve their self concept and recognize the importance of good character, concern for others and the value and rewards of hard work."

"Teachers serve as role models for students and that 'role' does not change at the end of the school day. A teacher is a teacher 24 hours a day. In short, a teacher can assist his students to chart their course in life," Mr. Johnson continued.

Star Agribusinessman



Bill McDaniel of Mullins was honored as Star Agribusinessman of the South Carolina Association of Future Farmers of America at its 60th annual anniversary convention last summer at Clemson University. Those in the picture include, left to right, Billy McDaniel, father of the Star Agribusinessman; Bill McDaniel, Owen Beeson, member of the Marion County School Board; and J.L. Bell, agriculture teacher at Mullins.

Donnie Whisenhunt

Young Farmer of The Year

Donnie G. Whisenhunt, a livestock and crop production farmer of Orangeburg, was presented the South Carolina Young Farmer of the Year award by the SC Association of Young Farmers at the recent awards banquet at Radisson Hotel in Columbia.

The awards recognition included the presentation of an engraved silver bowl, and \$300 in cash to Mr. Whisenhunt and his wife, Carol. The award was presented by Maxey D. Love, Jr., of Columbia, chief executive officer of the Farm Credit Banks of Columbia, which sponsors the Young Farmer of the Year competition.

District Young Farmer of the Year winners who also received awards sponsored by the Farm Credit Banks, included Glenn N. Crouch of Saluda Chapter, John Crawford, agriculture teacher; Jefferson H. Wilson of Chester Chapter, Allen Beer, agriculture teacher; and Charles Edens of Hillcrest Chapter at Dalzell, William Keels, agriculture teacher. The District Young Farmer of the Year recipients were presented an engraved silver bowl and \$150 in cash.

Mr. Whisenhunt is a member of the Orangeburg-Calhoun TEC Young Farmer Chapter, William Cook, agriculture teacher and chapter advisor.

The Young Farmer of the Year and his two brothers, Johnny and Clyde, farm more than 1,500 acres.

The Three-Acre Corn Contest awards also went to Mr. Whisenhunt in the non-irrigated category. He was awarded a \$100 district award and an additional \$100 as state winner.

Other winners in the corn contest included Gregg Thomas of Edgefield Chapter, Hugh Bland, advisor; Ricky Kneece of Pelion, Frank R. Stover, Jr., advisor; and Scott Hoffmeyer of St. Johns Chapter at Darlington, Alex Yarborough, advisor. Each received \$100 as district winners.

State and district winners in other contests, and representatives of sponsoring firms who presented awards, include:

Three-Acre Corn (Irrigated): Ricky Kneece of Pelion Chapter, state winner, Frank R. Stover, Jr., advisor; and District Winners Will and Woody Marsh of Hillcrest Chapter at Dalzell, William Keels, advisor; and O'Neal

Davis of Orangeburg-Calhoun TEC Young Farmer Chapter, William Cook, advisor. Awards were presented by Doug Roberts of DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics, Sumter.

Five-Acre Soybean Contest (Non irrigated) sponsored by Coker's Pedigreed Seed Company: Donnie Whisenhunt of Orangeburg-Calhoun TEC Young Farmer Chapter, state winner; and District Winners Gregg Thomas of Edgefield Chapter, Hugh Bland, advisor; Gene Lucas of Pelion Chapter, Frank R. Stover, Jr., advisor; and Julian Murray of St. Johns Chapter at Darlington, Alex Yarborough, advisor. Marion Hawkins of Coker's Pedigreed Seed Company, Hartsville, presented the awards.

Five-Acre Soybean (Irrigated): One district winner who was O'Neal Davis of Orangeburg-Calhoun TEC Chapter at Orangeburg, sponsored by Coker's Seed Company and presented by Mr. Hawkins.

Energy Efficiency sponsored by Duke Power Company, Carolina Power and Light Company, and South Carolina Electric and Gas Company:

Tommy Turner of Bowman, was



Donnie and Carol Whisenhunt receive the South Carolina Young Farmer of the Year award from Maxie Love, chief executive officer with the Farm Credit Banks of Columbia, sponsor of the Young Farmer of the Year contest, during the 40th annual convention of the association.



Two of the district winners in the Young Farmer of the Year Contest are shown above. Those in the picture include, left to right, Maxie Love of the Farm Credit Banks of Columbia, who presented the awards; Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Wilson of Chester; and Mr. and Mrs. Glen N. Crouch of Saluda. Charles Edens of Hillcrest Chapter in Sumter County, not shown, was District 3 winner.

presented an engraved plaque and \$300 in cash as state winner, Landy Weathers, advisor; and District winners David Dyal of Hickory Tavern Chapter, T.B. Huffman, advisor; W.B. Wilkerson of Hickory Grove Chapter, Frank Sandifer, advisor; and George W. Plummer of Lamar Chapter, Al Jeffords, advisor. E.J. Tyson of Duke Power Company, Charlotte, NC, presented awards on behalf of the sponsors.

Young Farmer Chapter Contest, sponsored by Gold Kist, Inc., and awards presented by Jim Loftis of Gold Kist, Inc., Atlanta, GA:

Bowman Chapter, Hal E. Arant, president; and Landy Weathers, advisor, state winner; and District Winners Saluda Chapter, Watson Dorn, president; and John Crawford, advisor; Chester Chapter, Joey Wilson, president, and Allen Beer, advisor; and Britton's Neck, Jim Lovell, president, and Jerry Pace, advisor.

Livestock Production Awards were presented in three categories as follows:

Beef Production: Allen Lee Beer of Chester, state winner; and Jerry Lee Anderson of Bowman, second place state.

Dairy Production: W. Freddy Jacques of Bowman, Landy Weathers, advisor, state winner; and J. Claude Wheeler, Jr. of Saluda Chapter, John Crawford, advisor, second place.

Swine Production: G. Davis McClam of St. Johns Chapter, Darlington, Alex Yarborough, advisor, state winner; and Donnie Whisenhunt of Orangeburg-Calhoun TEC, William C. Cook, advisor, second place. Livestock production awards were presented by Steve Kruger of ConAgra Inc., Augusta, GA.

Forest Management sponsored by Georgia-Pacific Corporation and Stone Container Corporation:

John M. Felder of Bowman Chapter, Landy Weathers, advisor, \$200 cash; and Jimmy McGill of Clover Chapter, Chris Edge, advisor, second place, \$100 award. Bob Tutton of Russellville, made the presentation for the sponsors.

The banquet session featured a presentation by Doc Blakely of



New officers of the South Carolina Association of Young Farmers are shown above. They include, left to right, front row, Joey Wilson of Chester, president-elect; Archie Felder of Bowman, president; and Charles Edens of Dalzell, vice president from District 3. Standing, Hugh Weathers of Bowman, vice president from District 4; Marshall Flowers of Darlington, past president; Watson Dorn of Saluda, vice president from District 1; and Bill Nance of York, vice president from District 2. Russell S. Willis of Columbia, serves as executive secretary; and Hugh P. McClinton is advisor.

Wharton, Texas.

Marshall Flowers of Darlington, state president, presided. Other SC Young Farmer officers who presided during the convention included Archie Felder of Bowman, president-

elect; and District Vice Presidents Watson Dorn of Saluda; Joey Wilson of Chester; Frankie Woodard of Darlington; Hugh Weathers of Bowman; and Rusty Darby of Chester.



James Ulmer, advisor of Orangeburg County Young Farmer Chapter, receives the first place Chapter Membership award from Marshall Flowers of Darlington, State Young Farmer president.



H.O. Harvey of Orangeburg County Young Farmer Chapter, who was presented the Outstanding Service Award receives congratulations from Hugh P. McClinton of Columbia, state supervisor of agricultural education, left.



District and state winners in the Three-Acre Corn Contest Non-irrigated include, left to right, Gregg Thomas of Edgefield Chapter, Johnson, Ricky Kneece of Pelion Chapter, Scott Hoffmeyer of St. Johns Chapter at Darlington, and Donnie Whisenhunt of Orangeburg Calhoun TEC Chapter, state winner with a yield of 179.15 bushels per acre. Doug Roberts of DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics of Sumter, contest sponsor, presented the awards.



Young Farmers who received district and state awards in the Energy Efficiency Contest are shown above. Those in the picture include, left to right, E.J. Tyson of Duke Power Company who presented the awards on behalf of the sponsors; George Plummer of Lamar Chapter; David Dyal of Hickory Tavern Chapter; Tommy Turner of Bowman Chapter, state winner; and W.B. Wilkerson of Hickory Grove Chapter.

President's Award

Hal Arant of Bowman was named the winner of the South Carolina Association of Young Farmer Chapter President's Award during the final session.

Mr. Arant was presented a \$200 cash award and an engraved plaque by Baxter Sowell of the

Nitragin Company, Macon Ga., sponsor of the contest.

District winners who received an engraved plaque include Keith Hodges of Hickory Tavern Chapter, T.B. Huffman, chapter advisor; Joey Wilson of Chester Chapter, Allen L. Beer, advisor; and Charles Edens of

Hillcrest Chapter at Dalzell, William Keels, advisor.

Bowman Young Farmers won the Attendance Award for the convention.

The Membership Award including the largest member increase and highest percentage increase went to Orangeburg County Chapter, James



Winners in the Three-Acre Corn Irrigated Contest included, left to right, Ricky Kneece of Pelion, state winner; Will Marsh of Hillcrest Chapter, and O'Neal Davis of Orangeburg-Calhoun TEC Chapter, Doug Roberts of DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics of Sumter, contest sponsor, presented the awards.



State and district winners in the Non-irrigated Soybean Contest include left to right, Gregg Thomas of Edgefield; Gene Lucas of Pelion, Julian Murray of St. Johns Chapter, Darlington, and Donnie Whisenhunt of Orangeburg, state winner. Marion Hawkins of Coker's Pedigreed Seed Company at Hartsville, presented the awards.



Top winners in the Forest Management Contest included Jimmy McGill of Clover Chapter, second; and John M. Felder of Bowman, right, first place state winner. Bob Turton of Russellville, left, presented the awards on behalf of Georgia Pacific Corporation and Stone Container Corporation, co-sponsors of the award.

Ulmer III, advisor.

Rhett Parkman of Edgefield Chapter, and H.O. Harvey of Orangeburg County Chapter were



Several Livestock Production Award winners are shown above. Those in the picture include, left to right, Steve Kruger of ConAgra, Inc., Augusta, Ga., sponsor; Jerry Lee Anderson of Bowman, second place state winner in beef production; J. Claude Wheeler, Jr., of Saluda, second in dairy production, and Freddy Jaques of Bowman, first place in dairy production. Other winners not shown included Allen Beer of Chester, first in beef production, and Davis McClam of Lynchburg, first in swine production.

presented outstanding service awards in recognition of their outstanding service to the Young Farmer Association for many years on local, state and national levels.

Jerry Pace, agriculture teacher

and advisor of the Brittons Neck Chapter, was presented a plaque in recognition of being named "Spokesperson for Agriculture" from Elanco Products Company of Indianapolis, Ind.



George McKenzie, of Darlington, now retired, and for many years agriculture teacher at St. Johns High School in Darlington, had a special interest in the 40th annual convention of South Carolina Young Farmers in seeing Marshall Flowers, a son of a former student, preside. Marshall is a son of Frank Flowers one of Mr. McKenzie's former students, and also a past president and Young Farmer of the Year of S.C. Young Farmers.



Representatives of winners in the Young Farmer Chapter Contest are shown above. They include, left to right, Landy Weathers, advisor of Bowman Chapter, first place state chapter; and Hal E. Arant, president of the first place chapter; Watson Dorn of Saluda, District 1 winners; and Joey Wilson, president; and Allen Beer, advisor of Chester Chapter, District 2 winner. Other district winners not shown included Brittons Neck Chapter, Jerry Pace, advisor, and Jim Lovell, president.



The banquet program featured an inspiring and entertaining presentation by Doc Blakely of Wharton, Texas, shown left as he autographs one of his books.



Al Harman of Gilbert, State FFA president, brought greetings from SCFFA, and is welcomed by Marshall Flowers, president of SC Young Farmers.



Mr. and Mrs. Dale W. Rossman of Spring Mills, Pa., represented the Pennsylvania Young Farmers at the South Carolina 40th annual convention.



Young Farmers listen to a presentation during a tour of the Union Camp Corporation plant at Eastover during the Friday's afternoon session.

Nine Teachers Share In Retirement Honors

Nine agriculture teachers with more than 300 years of teaching service in agricultural education were honored last summer at the annual conference of agriculture teachers as they entered retirement.

The nine included eight teachers and Dr. John Rodgers who served as agriculture teacher for six years and as head of agricultural education at Clemson University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Other teachers who retired included L.V. Walker, Jr. of Piedmont, Willie McLaughlin, Jr. of Greenwood, Jack P. Corn of Mauldin, and Saul E. Price of Sumter.

Also Murray Montgomery of New Zion, E.B. Earle of McBee, Edward Cooper of Kingstree, and Remo E. Cribb of Florence.

Thirty year service awards went to Harold J. Mackey of Belton-Honea Path, Gilmore McManus of Andrews, and Walter P. Lloyd of Walterboro.

A brief summary of activities of each of the teachers who entered retirement follows:

L.V. Walker, Jr.

(Mr. Walker passed away since retirement awards were presented. The following summary of his career presented at the retirement banquet, is offered as a tribute to his service.)

A native of Florence County, Mr. Walker received his B.S. Degree in agriculture in 1955 from S.C. State College at Orangeburg. He started his teaching career at Manchester High

School at Pinewood in Sumter County where he served for one year before entering military service for two years. He returned to teaching at Spearman High School in Williamston, and later moved to Wren High School.

He received a M.S. degree from State College and earned the Educational Specialist degree from Clemson University.

Mr. Walker was recognized for teaching effective programs with the emphasis on production agriculture and shop skills. Many of his students have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities. He was active in school, religious and community activities along with his work in his professional organizations. He was married to the former Miss Lillian Perry. They have two daughters, both graduates of Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Willie McLaughlin

Mr. McLaughlin was born and raised on a farm in Dillon County and attended schools in Dillon and Marlboro Counties. He was graduated from Rock Hill Junior College, and received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural education from South Carolina State College.

He has taught vocational agriculture at Brewer High School and Greenwood High School, the last 11 years at Greenwood County Vocational Center.

From 1946 to 1951, he served in the U.S. Army including active duty in

Korea. He has served the American Legion as Post Adjutant and Commander, District Commander, and State Vice Commander.

Active in his professional organizations, he has served as secretary-treasurer of the S.C. Agriculture Teachers Association, and as president of the Greenwood County Education Association.

He is married to the former Miss Flora Louise Graves of Dillon, and they have two sons and a daughter.

Jack Corn

A native of Etowah, N.C., Mr. Corn attended Maulding Elementary and high schools, then graduated from Clemson College with a B.S. degree in vocational agriculture, and later his M.S. degree from Clemson University.

Military service in World War II in the Army Air Force, ran from 1943 to 1946 after which he entered Clemson University to prepare for a teaching career in agricultural education.

His teaching career got underway at Pacolet High School in 1949 where he taught for approximately 14 years, and later at Ford High School in Laurens. He was vocational coordinator in Laurens School District #55 when he retired.

He has been active in professional organizations, and his FFA students have been very successful in winning several state awards.

Mr. Corn is married to the former Miss Wilhelmina "Mena" Albertson of Seneca and they have four children, and three granddaughters.

Traveling has become a favorite hobby. In recent years, he and his wife have visited Hawaii, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, France, England, Greece, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Australia and New Zealand.

Saul E. Price

A native of Barnwell County, Mr. Price received his B.S. degree and Masters degree from S.C. State College. He taught agriculture at St. Matthews for several years before entering military service with the U.S. Army during which he served a tour of duty in Nuremberg, Germany.

He taught agriculture in Sumter School District 2 for 28 years, then went to Mt. Pleasant High School in Lee County. Fifteen students joined the FFA organization during his first

year at Mt. Pleasant, and now it has grown to 70 active members under his leadership.

During his 38 years of teaching vocational agriculture, he has had 87 State Farmers, and seven American Farmers. He was awarded the Honorary American Farmer degree in 1979.

Mr. Price has been active in his professional organizations, church work, community, civic, and fraternal organizations.

He is married to the former Miss Josephine Handerson, and they have one son.

"The life of service is the life that counts, and happiness endures to mankind when it comes from having lifted the burden of others" is the philosophy of Mr. Price.

Murray Montgomery

A native of Williamsburg County, Mr. Montgomery received his B.S. degree in agriculture from South Carolina State College in 1951, and did graduate work at State College and Clemson University.

He began his teaching career at Walker-Gamble High School in New Zion, and has remained in East Clarendon District for all of his 35 years.

A member of the professional organizations for teachers, he has been awarded the "Teacher of Teachers", and the Clarendon County "Teacher of the Year" awards.

He is married to the former Miss Jannie Walker. They have four children.

E.B. Earle

A native of Central, Mr. Earle served two years in the U.S. Army, and was graduated from Clemson with a B.S. degree in vocational agriculture in 1948. He completed graduate work at Clemson University and the University of S.C.

Through a 41 year teaching career at McBee, Mr. Earle has provided excellent leadership to young people and adults in the McBee area. His students have won more than 150 FFA awards, and have carried home top awards in FFA competitive activities on the state level.

Mr. Earle, himself, has been recognized and honored by local, state and national professional organizations for his work with young

people and leadership in his community. An active member of McBee Baptist Church, Mr. Earle also has been active in the American Legion, and farm organizations.

Edward Cooper

A native of Florence County, Mr. Cooper was graduated from South Carolina State College with a B.S. degree in agriculture. After serving two years in the U.S. Army, he taught at St. Mark High School in Kingstree for 25 years.

He received his Masters degree in education from South Carolina State College in 1973.

Many of his students have received State Farmer degrees and other awards including the State Star Farmer by one of his students.

Mr. Cooper is married to the former Miss Frances McGill and they have five children.

Remo E. Cribb

A graduate of Florence High School, Mr. Cribb enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard where he served for three years during World War II. His service included participation in the Liberation of the Philippines, the invasion of Okinawa, and the occupation of Japan. Mr. Cribb entered Clemson College in 1951, then graduated in 1955 with a B.S. degree in agricultural education. He then worked two years as an assistant agronomist at the Clemson Pee Dee Experiment Station in Florence. He began his teaching career in 1957, and then taught at Bonaire, Bishopville, Williams Junior, St. Johns, Cheraw and Marion High Schools.

He received his M.S. degree in agricultural education from Clemson in 1963, and did further graduate work at Clemson, Carolina, and State College.

Mr. Cribb has coached and advised FFA teams on chapter, federation, state and national levels. Young Farmers from his school have participated in district and State Young Farmer activities. He is a member of several professional organizations.

Mr. Cribb was married to the late Betty Weaver Cribb, and they had four children, three of whom are graduates of Clemson University. A fourth child is a nursing student at Florence-Darlington TEC.

Hogs Thrive on Clean Management for SC Young Farmer of the Year

"Clean as a pig?"

An ironic comparative?"

Not in the farming operations of Donnie Whisenhunt and his two brothers, Johnny and Clyde, who manage one of the largest swine production centers in the state in the Bolentown community of Orangeburg County.

Donnie and wife, the former Miss Carol Postal of Columbia, were honored as the Young Farmer of the Year of the South Carolina Association of Young Farmers at the annual convention of the association in January in Columbia.

The pigs head up the major income on the farm. Such being the case, they are very special animals. "They never hit the dirt from the time they are born to the time they leave the farm," Donnie recently told a visitor to the farm.

From the farrowing house through the early weaning pen and nursery, they look as shiny as a new silver dollar...but spunky and squeely as a pig all the way through. They continue through the finishing lot healthy and still growing. "We don't have many health problems we can't handle ourselves," Donnie said.

"We move an average of 200 hogs from the finishing lot to market each week," he added.

The many facilities used in the swine production operations from the farrowing through the growing pens comprise a clean hospital-like environment.

"How do you keep the pigs so clean?" Donnie was asked.

"Johnny and Clyde are the best managers in the hog business in the state," he replied.

Although Donnie was recognized as the Young Farmer of the Year, he said he filed the application for Young Farmer of the Year, not so



Donnie Whisenhunt pulls a soil sample for use in determining fertilization practices for most efficient production.

much for his personal credit, but for the "credit of my brothers and the farm itself. The three of us are in the farming business together."

Johnny is in charge of crop production, and Clyde oversees the swine operation. Donnie takes care of books and is involved in the marketing and commodities market.

"About all we use the commodities market now is for hedging on our own crops and feed supply," Donnie noted.



Radio maintains close communications and coordination with all phases of the farm operation as seen above when Johnny Whisenhunt needed to contact brother Donnie in a nearby town.

He has worked in the construction business, and two years as a commodity broker in Atlanta from 1975 to 1977. This experience has been valuable in the farming operation.

Together the brothers farm nearly 1500 acres including soybeans, corn and wheat, and operate a 700-sow farrow to finish swine production center. The sows average 2.3 litters each per year and 9.5 weaned pigs per litter.

The farm also includes 200 acres of three-year-old planted pines.

The grain and corn grown on the farm is marketed through the swine operation. They purchase another 100,000 bushels of corn and grain per year for their feed operation. "We can buy it cheaper than we can grow it. Most of the corn purchased is grown locally," Donnie said.

The Whisenhunt farm is considered among the largest swine producers in the state. Having been in swine production since 1969, the farm has grown and made progress over the years. The farm was incorporated in 1976, and Donnie came into it in 1977 after the death of their father, J.W. Whisenhunt, who started growing hogs in the late 1950's.

A sister, Rita Whisenhunt Brown and her husband, Charles Ray Brown of Springfield, have an interest in a 260-sow operation.

"We used to wean pigs at eight weeks. Now we can do it in three to four weeks by putting them into climate control houses and an early weaning feed. By use of the early weaning pen, the mother goes back into production four weeks earlier."

The pigs are moved through four stages of development. Starting in the farrowing houses where they remain for three weeks, they go to the early weaning pen for 21 to 28 days, then to the nursery for four weeks,

and to the finish pen for about eight to ten weeks.

Feed is ground and prepared on the farm through a system of storage bins, grinding, mixing and conveyor equipment. Special feed is prepared for the early weaning stages.

Improvement practices on the farm include soil testing and application of fertilizer according to soil analysis recommendations required to produce top yields most economically. Improvement practices also include following recommendations of ASCS, improved feed practices, use of equipment and feedstuffs available in the hog industry, inspections and repair of farm buildings and equipment, and emphasis on farm management and record keeping.

The total farm operation is geared to production efficiency. A farm office also is conveniently located to the feed rooms, equipment sheds, and storage areas.

"The success of our farm is due to the efforts of all three of us. Each has his own area of responsibility and we work together throughout the operation as may be needed,"



The successful farming operation would not be complete without the wholesome and happy family life shared by Donnie and Carol and their one year old daughter, Kyle, who expertly manages a special gem of joy in the family activities.

Donnie continued.

Wholesome family life and recreation also are a key part of the farm operation with week-ends scheduled so each family can take turns for rest and leisure.

"My family life is based on the

ability of myself creating a financially, spiritual and emotional atmosphere in which we can grow as one," Donnie added.

Donnie and Carol enjoy the comforts of a beautiful, modern home, and Carol also has been very helpful in landscaping the yard.

The Young Farmer of the Year is an active member of the Orangeburg Calhoun TEC Young Farmer where William Cook is advisor. He has served as secretary and president of the chapter, and is a leader in planning farm education programs for chapter meetings.

An array of numerous farm buildings, storage bins, joined by tubular conduits running at various angles, storage sheds, heavy farm equipment, and row after row of buildings for growing hogs looms in view of a traveler driving along a rural highway just outside of Bolen-town. This vast industrial like complex contains an intensive and concentrated swine operation. But perhaps a visitor here would never at first guess that all the noisy four-legged creatures inside are growing up "Clean as a Pig."



Clyde Whisenhunt is known for his excellent management skills in swine production, and the hogs seem to reach out for a close personal touch.

Coming Events

- SCFFA Convention, June 8-10, Clemson University
- Cherry Grove FFA Camp opens June 13
- SCFFA Leadership Conference, June 21-24, Cherry Grove

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